

July 14th

Dear Ones,

Today is Bastille Day and the natives have been riding back and forth along the roads singing and yelling in their high pitched voices. Other wise it has been an ordinary day, very humid and muggy - not a breeze in the air. Tomorrow will be a regular work day, I guess. The only mail besides TIME and a couple of letters from home was a V-mail from Bill Snower whose arthritis is still bothering him. Like me, Bill is all for a revived Guardian after the war.

Apparently there is something in the Pearson report that Osmena and his government will not be the administration in power in the Philippines after the coming elections; sources on all sides point to the popularity of Roxas and the underground group. It would seem that MacArthur is handling the situation well in avoiding our role in the PI from swinging the election to the government which has returned from exile. By this time we know that governments in exile - even governments which were extremely popular at the time of the fall of their nations in war - have two strikes against them in the public's eyes since they must face new political figures who endured the occupation and are indisputably closer to the people who have been liberated. This apparently applies as much in the Pacific as in Europe. I see that Lawrence is taking his usual cautious and negative stand in the question of a combined army, navy and marine setup; my own experience here on Santo is that supply, equipment, and service forces should be combined. The discrepancies and differences between the branches of services are a constant source of trouble. I can't speak for the tactical forces - certainly there are innumerable advantages to the separate commands and coordination at the staff rather than the field level.

From the report of the Zionist Policy Committee it would seem that the pro-Silver movement among the national groups did turn the trick and force reconsideration and the proposal of the new plans. But the report is wise in pointing out that it took the pressure of Weizmann, Ben Gurion, the defection of the Mizrahi, the interference of the Agency, to even get the co-chairmanship back for Silver; apparently the forces in opposition to Silver are still strong enough in ZOA to block a full acceptance of his leadership. Just by process of elimination of the other alternatives, it would seem to me that American Zionists would rally to a new administration under the active leadership of Silver.

Neil Clark wrote me about Bill Brown; glad to hear that Esther came through with flying colors. Her maiden name was Germain - French or Italian, I don't know; Daddy probably does - they live in the big brick house opposite the Osteopathic hospital, at Caleb St and Brighton. Esther was an attractive girl, but I just have a hunch that she is the type who will grow plump unless she is very careful. I don't recall the incident of the nurse's slapping me 16 years ago, Mother. No doubt, it made a deep imprint on my youthful subconscious however! I can't see Mrs Chason's attitude at all - to deny yourself a pleasant experience to spare yourself the unpleasantness of having it end is a pretty tough point of view. I can see her feeling that Charlie's second departure will be hard to take - it will be tough for him too - but what the hell. You said it - Dave Sacknoff was very smart and I imagine that his chances of discharge are pretty good now. As for your comment about my being in Ordnance and its connection with the Fourth of July - I haven't fired a weapon since I left the states, or seen one fired - except in the movies!!!

In talking with the men I have found that a lot of them are dissatisfied with the GI Bill of Rights; it is not the educational feature of the Act, which will be enhanced further by the Pepper proposals, but the loan and business features. The men feel that it is too tough to get the loan. It is increasingly clear from all reports that the Veterans' Administration is sticking to the law and that the loans under the bill will be for proven and constructive purposes. For myself I do not feel that the men's objection is justified - as one of the Coronet articles points out, 90% of all new



businesses fail. There is nothing casual and haphazard in starting a business and the provisions of the GI Act are the surest guarantee that the young man who takes a loan is sure of what he is doing, knows the ropes and the conditions he faces, and is ready for the work and responsibility he faces. The GI Bill is no bonus, it is not mustering out pay - it is a proposition for good business, with as much of the burden for its success resting on the shoulders of the individuals seeking to take advantage of it as on the government. So when I hear complaints that ex-GI's are having trouble getting loans, the chances are that the trouble lies with them and not with the Administration. (By the way, Coronet is a superior magazine and I urge you to read it if you can get a copy; it beats the Readers' Digest all hollow for my money.)

I see that the 10th of July is the assembly date for the 30th Division on its way home; those boys have some five battle stars (good for 25 points toward discharge) and will probably have 18 months overseas before they embark for home. I haven't heard from Garrett for some time - as far as I know the company came through with but once purple heart and no serious injuries in that case. (The boy who was wounded was one of the two Jewish boys in the company when I left it.) Bill Snower mentioned that a lot of people had hoped for a younger and more progressive Secretary of State than Byrnes, but I think that his political aptitude, so well proven up to now, is the primary consideration; it would be encouraging to see some of the older and more conservative State Department heads replaced by younger and more liberal policy makers. I wish Joe Stilwell would make up his mind - one day he talks of the war's lasting two to three more years, the next day he talks of all the boys' being home by July 4 1946. (I am partial to the latter viewpoint.)

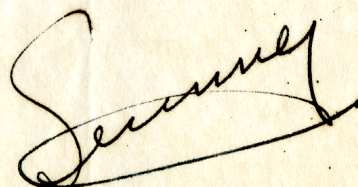
It would seem to me that White's question on our surrender terms to Japan has already been answered by Truman and by our military and Naval leaders many times. There is not any such animal as surrender with strings attached - surrender must be unconditional and complete - what finer definition could be asked for I do not know. As for Senator Capeheart from Indiana - he is rapidly filling Rye's place in the Senate. To my mind he is the example par excellence of the stumbling block in the path of the development of the Republican Party. Butler of Nebraska may be another. The latter's proposal of a national referendum on the question of the peacetime draft is typical of the refusal to face issues and make decisions; we have a representative form of government - the use of the referendum particularly on a national scale must of necessity be limited to a most restricted type of question. Who was it who once proposed a referendum before we could go to war - wouldn't we have looked cute on December 7th, 1941?

I'll save that clipping on the Georgia county that came back into the Union and give it to Nate Wolfe - sort of like Hattiesburg Mississippi which finally celebrated the 4th of July for the first time in some eighty years. Dorothy Thompson is certainly getting to be sour grapes - something, I don't know what, seems to have put a disheartened approach into every thing she covers. Perhaps she is overwhelmed by the desolation of Europe. In any case she seems to have decided that her new role should be one of a voice of warning - perhaps it is a Cassandra complex.

OK for tonight - I still have a number of letters of yours to cover -

All my love,

Regards to Doris



PS. I mailed the books home today. 